



Cllr DAVID HODGE: Surrey County Council / South East England Councils

David entered politics in 1992 when he was elected to Tandridge DC, immersing himself in financial issues and serving 4 years as Housing Committee Chairman. In 2005 he became a Surrey county councillor and was elected Deputy Leader in 2009 with responsibility for the finance portfolio. In that role he led the council's Public Value Review programme, which has identified savings of £279m by 2015-16 and driven an ambitious improvement and change agenda. He was elected Leader of Surrey CC in 2011. He is a passionate believer in working with public partners, businesses and voluntary sector to deliver better and more efficient public services. He was elected Deputy Chairman of South East England Councils in 2012.

David has a military background, spending 22 years in the British Army, where he developed his expertise in financial and auditing matters visiting many countries, including 3 years in Northern Ireland. David has devoted significant time to charity and voluntary work, most notably through work with Rotary International where he has spent time building hospitals, schools and training centres in Sierra Leone.



HUGH ROBERTS: SKM Colin Buchanan consultants

Hugh Roberts is Director of Planning & Urban Design at SKM Colin Buchanan and practice leader for SKM's urban and regional planners worldwide. He works with public and private sectors internationally and in the UK. His remit includes policy and research, land use spatial and core strategy work for local authorities/central government agencies, as well as infrastructure deficit and delivery plans associated with s106 and CIL. Recent projects include infrastructure prioritisation to achieve best economic impacts for the South East LEP, infrastructure delivery plans for a range of local authorities, and master-plan work for mixed public private consortia eg Gosport Waterfront & Port Solent in Portsmouth Harbour, and Chichester Harbour.

Hugh is a chartered surveyor and town planner and a member of the Town & Country Planning Association's policy council and the National Infrastructure Planning Association. He has extensive international experience throughout the Middle East, Australia, mainland Europe, India, Malaysia and Thailand - mainly on master planning for urban growth and infrastructure projects.



ALAN GOODRUM: Chiltern & South Bucks DCs / District Councils Network

Alan Goodrum has been Chief Executive of Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils since February 2012. He was previously Chief Executive of Chiltern DC. Alan was Chair of the District Councils' Chief Executives Network (2009-11) and is currently a planning advisor to the District Councils Network. He is also lead officer on the Chiltern-Wycombe Waste Collection/Recycling Partnership, and the Bucks Joint Waste Committee.

Previously, Alan was Director of Planning at Leeds Development Corporation, handling a range of infrastructure and regeneration projects, and Employment Development Officer with Kirklees Metropolitan Council. He has also held appointments with Peterborough Development Corporation and Durham County Council, following a degree in Town and Country Planning at Manchester University.



HUW JONES: Oxfordshire County Council / South East Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning & Transport

Huw Jones has been Executive Director with Oxfordshire CC since August 2008, where he has responsibility for economy and enterprise, transport, planning, waste and countryside together with commercial and customer services. He also manages the council property asset portfolio and investment & capital financing programmes. He has established new models of service delivery and cultural change by strategic partnering with private sector providers.

During his career he has worked across much of the UK – especially the North West, East of England and South East. Huw is a member of the national presidents' team of ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport) and Chair of their Planning & Regeneration Board. In addition, Huw chairs the South East Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning and Transport group who are undertaking pioneering work on sub-national cooperation and act as a regional sounding board for ADEPT. He has served on a number of central government panels to develop national policy on planning, infrastructure and alternative funding models.



Cllr CHRIS ROBERTS: Royal Borough of Greenwich / London Councils

Chris Roberts was elected to Greenwich Council in 1994. Having led on planning and regeneration issues, he was elected Leader in 2000. Chris has led on the extensive physical, social and economic regeneration of Greenwich, which included tackling long-term unemployment through an award winning local employment scheme which has placed more than 10,000 people into jobs. His tenure has also seen creation of the Millennium Dome, its conversion to The O2 and development of thousands of new homes on former derelict industrial land.

Chris chaired the Thames Gateway London Partnership of east London boroughs – Europe's largest regeneration programme – and serves on the Executive of London Councils as lead spokesman for planning, economy, infrastructure and the Olympics. Chris has led on the development of Greenwich's transport strategies and serves on a number of housing and enterprise boards. He is a member of the GMB Union and the Co-operative Party. In 2012 Greenwich was designated a Royal Borough, and in March 2013 it won the LGC Council of the Year award.



Rt Hon MICHAEL FALLON MP: Minister of State for Business & Enterprise

Michael Fallon was appointed Minister for Business and Enterprise in September 2012, in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Michael has been MP for Sevenoaks, Kent, since 1997. Previously, he was MP for Darlington from 1983-92. He was a minister in the Department for Education and Science in 1990 and more recently has held positions on the Treasury Select Committee and as Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party.

Born in Scotland and married with 2 children, Michael was educated at Epsom College and St Andrews University. He is a former director of Quality Care Homes plc (nursing homes), Just Learning Ltd (nurseries) and Attendo AB (Scandinavian social and health care). He is currently non-executive director of Tullett Prebon plc (inter-dealer broking).



Cllr PAUL CARTER: Kent County Council

Paul Carter became Leader of Kent CC in 2005. From his election in 1997 until he became Leader, Paul had responsibility for education. He is committed to transforming education and oversaw introduction of a 14-16 vocational education programme in Kent. He has also fought to retain special schools, ensuring that children with special educational needs have the support and help they need to reach their full potential. Paul believes passionately that public services must at all times put the resident first, be as bureaucracy-free as possible, delivering quality and excellent value for money. From 2008-12 Paul was the first Chairman of South East England Councils.

Paul runs property, construction & retail businesses in London. He was a founding partner of Gander plc, the first property company on AIM (Alternative Investment Market). Paul is married with 3 grown up children. He regularly competes in motor sport, particularly pre-war sports car racing, rallying and trialling.



JOHN SPENCE OBE: South East LEP

John Spence formerly held Managing Director roles in Lloyds TSB and is currently chair of Essex-based estate agency Spicer Haart. He is Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County of Essex, a governor of Anglia Ruskin University, chairman of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance and was formerly chairman of Harlow Renaissance Limited. He became Chairman of the South East LEP in 2011.

John serves on a number of finance boards and committees, and in 2004 chaired the Deputy Prime-Minister's Advisory Panel on Neighbourhood Renewal. He received an MBE in 1999 for services to the community and an OBE in 2006 for services to charity and business. He is married with a son and 2 daughters.



GEOFF FRENCH: Enterprise M3 LEP

Geoff has been the Chair of the Enterprise M3 LEP since it was established in 2011. Geoff was Chairman of Scott Wilson for 8 years until its recent acquisition by URS. He is a civil engineering graduate who joined Scott Wilson in 1968, becoming Chairman in 2002 and overseeing a highly successful flotation in 2006.

In 2005 he was elected to the Executive Committee of FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, becoming President in 2011. He is also the Senior Vice President of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a past Chairman of the Association for Consulting & Engineering. As well as working throughout the UK, Geoff has worked in Botswana, China, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Vietnam on transport planning, design & management.



Cllr TONY PAGE: Reading Borough Council

Cllr Tony Page has served continuously on Reading Council as a Labour councillor since 1973. He was Chair of Reading Buses from 1986-2005 – one of only 14 remaining council-owned bus companies in the country. He was Chair of the Transportation Committee 1986-1990; Chair, then Cabinet Member for corporate services 1990-2004; Cabinet Member for community action and regeneration 2005-2008; and Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transport since 2008.

Tony has represented Reading BC on the Local Government Association since 1997 and is currently a member of its economy & transport board. He also sits on the Ministerial Bus Forum. He chaired the LGA task force, which produced their policy on school transport and served on the task force responsible for LGA policy on road pricing. Tony represented Reading on the Thames Valley Police Authority from 1997-2012 and now serves on the Police and Crime Panel.